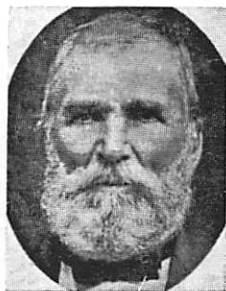


## THOMAS NICOL



Thomas Nicol was born November 22, 1824, at Coletton, Fifeshire, Scotland. We have no definite information regarding his parents and his early life, other than the fact that he was working in the coal mines at an early age, an occupation he followed as long as he was in Scotland. In 1842 he married Eliabeth Watson in Fifeshire.

About the year 1845, Elders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came into that part of Scotland, preaching the gospel as restored to Joseph Smith. This caused a great stir among the people of that country, who as a rule were very religious, but were very slow to accept new ideas in regard to God and the gospel as taught in the Bible and interpreted by the ministers of the various churches. Thomas was honest enough to listen to what the Elders had to say and to compare their teachings with the scriptures. In time he became fully convinced they had the true gospel with authority to preach it, which the others did not. Therefore he became baptized and became an ardent advocate of the doctrines taught by the Latter-day Saints. He soon was ordained an Elder and went out as a local missionary, visiting the nearby villages, holding street meetings, and doing his best to bring the people to the

knowledge of the gospel and its beauty as he saw it. He was very earnest himself in his beliefs and made some converts.

About 1854, as near as we can learn, the way was opened for him to go to Zion. As many other saints, he gladly left his native land and friends, casting his lot with the rest of the people of God. After passing through many trials and hardships, he arrived in Utah. He made his first home in Utah, at Bountiful, but soon moved to Sanpete, where he worked in the coal mines. As far as we can learn, he lived in Salt Lake a few years and it is probable his first wife died there when about to give birth to her seventh child. Only two of the children were alive at the time of her death and one of them died soon after.

While living alone and trying to care for the motherless child, two young Danish girls who had just arrived as immigrants, with no friends or home, were introduced to him and he offered them a welcome home for as long as they cared to stay, as he could not care for the child and attend to his work at the Church Temple quarry at the same time. One of the girls soon got tired and wanted to leave. He told them that he was willing that both should go or that both could stay, but that if one went the other would have to marry him or go, too. One of them, Johannah Christine Hanberg, stayed and married him. This was in about 1856 and they were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake. She was a kind and loving wife to him as long as she lived.

In 1860 he moved to Heber, as he was anxious to obtain some land and make a home. The valley had just been settled the year before. He acquired some land, on which he raised grain and hay and fed cattle. He built a house and settled down to work early and late. Although they lacked many of the necessities of life, he was happy with his young wife and their little family. It was necessary for him to meet many trials and misfortunes. Some time in the fall of 1863 scarlet fever broke out and three of his children died within two days. All three were buried in one grave, and not long after the only child left by his first wife died. His wife also died a little later, but we do not know exactly when.

On December 1, 1864, he married Johanna Kirsten Jensen in the Endowment House in Salt Lake. She was very delicate and lived but a year. She left a baby, Dora Elizabeth, who was born September 29, 1865. In spite of all the sickness, death and many other difficulties he had to meet, Thomas Nicol did not complain nor did his faith in God and the gospel falter. He was naturally a man of great faith and courage. Though humble and submissive to those in authority in the Church, he would not stand abuse from any man. He had great faith in administering to the sick and many have been healed under his hands. He always acknowledged the hand of the Lord in all the many trials and troubles he met in his eventful life.

He was an Indian war veteran and did his part in defending the early settlers from the attacks of the Indians. He was a member of the High Priests' Quorum many years. He died December 23, 1907, loved and respected by all who knew him.

